WHAT:
Calauit Safari Park, also called "Bongbong's Safari Park"

Marcos wanted to build a safari park with animals to be brought to the Philippines by ship from Kenya.

What Animals Were Bought for the Park:
"Parkinson recommended only nonpredators, such as foliage-nibbling giraffes, and advised that they be restricted to the less-populated Calauit. A deal was subsequently struck for Parkinson to catch 102 beasts, including giraffes, zebras, eland, impala, waterbuck, bushbuck, gazelles and topi.

The Money Spent by Marcos on the Park:
$99,250. (Parkinson still has the invoice.)

Marcos visited Nairobi, Kenya's capital, to attend a session of the UN Conference on Trade and Development. There, at a meeting in a downtown hotel, Parkinson says Marcos handed him a $25,000 down payment in a suitcase stuffed with $100 bills.

CALAUIT IS THE ANCESTRAL LAND OF THE TAGBANWA

- the Marcos family displaced some 200 Tagbanua people who were living on the island to give over a hundred wild animals a home. https://nolisoli.ph/95061/calauit-safari-park-island-marcos/
- THE ANIMAL'S "new home had been prepared for them since the year before. First, President Marcos had signed the Presidential Proclamation 1578 on August 31, 1976, declaring Calauit a national reserve. The 254 families living there at the time were subsequently evicted to a new home 40km away. (+254 is, incidentally, the international code for Kenya)." https://owaahh.com/diplomatic-fiasco-how-a-patch-of-the-kenyan-wild-ended-up-in-philippines/

MARCOS CLAIMS:
This narrative claims that during the conference in Kenya in 1976, Nairobi begged the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for assistance in conserving its diverse wildlife species. President Marcos, in his goodwill, the story goes, established what is today known as the Calauit Safari Park as his modest contribution.

Only there is no record of this request. The IUCN actually has a long-standing policy against relocating animals to places that are beyond their natural range. There is a more likely story, a story of vanity and collusion. https://owaahh.com/diplomatic-fiasco-how-a-patch-of-the-kenyan-wild-ended-up-in-philippines/

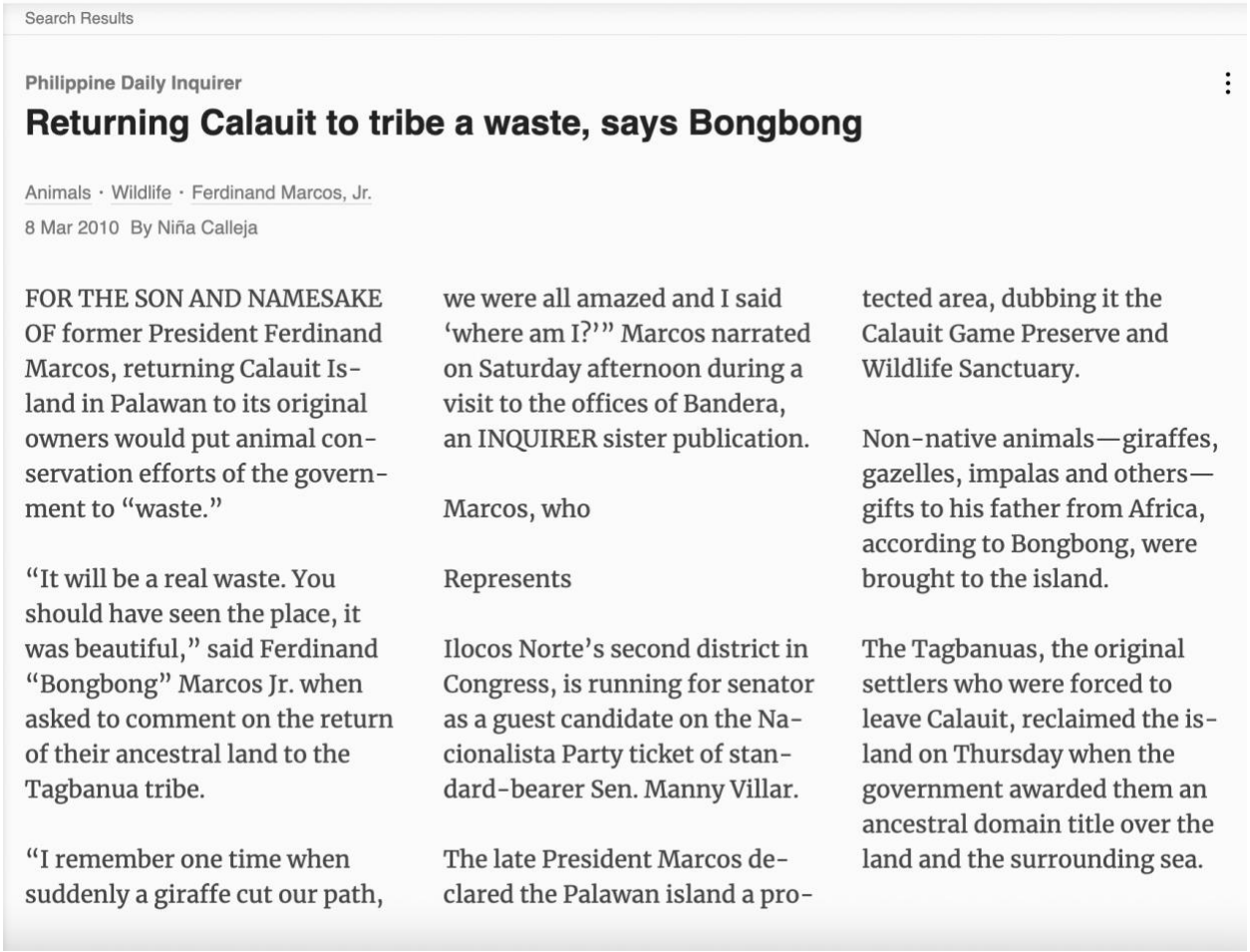
IMELDA'S EXCUSES:
"It was one of his obsessions that these animals should not become extinct," Imelda said. "We looked at the map and thought, 'My God, we are on the same line of latitude.' And Calauit was barren and with only a few people."

MARCOS LOVED ANIMALS: In 1954, he married Imelda, who, on the way home from church each Sunday, would buy sparrows and parrots in cages to place in their garden. “I loved to hear them sing and chatter,” she said. “But then they would disappear. Ferdinand used to set them free. He said, ‘I hope you don’t mind, but I can’t stand them being caged.’ He knew what it was like to be unjustly imprisoned.”

BONGBONG’S SAFARI

Marcos’ support had its drawbacks. The island became known as “Bongbong’s Safari Park” after Marcos’ son, known as Bongbong, flew in twice by helicopter to hunt native wild boar. For many, the sanctuary became a symbol of Marcos’ profligate dictatorship.
https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1989-11-24-mn-184-story.html

“Some groups accused me of using it as my private hunting ground,” the Oxford- and Wharton-educated Bongbong, now 56 and a senator with his own presidential ambitions, said in his office overlooking Manila Bay. “Sure, I went hunting, but it was for wild boar that were eating the antelope young. It was never the exotics.” https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2013-12-08/world-s-strangest-safari-serengeti-on-south-china-sea



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Philippine Daily Inquirer

Returning Calauit to tribe a waste, says Bongbong

Animals · Wildlife · Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.

8 Mar 2010 By Niña Calleja

FOR THE SON AND NAMESAKE OF former President Ferdinand Marcos, returning Calauit Island in Palawan to its original owners would put animal conservation efforts of the government to “waste.”

“It will be a real waste. You should have seen the place, it was beautiful,” said Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. when asked to comment on the return of their ancestral land to the Tagbanua tribe.

“I remember one time when suddenly a giraffe cut our path, we were all amazed and I said ‘where am I?’” Marcos narrated on Saturday afternoon during a visit to the offices of Bandera, an INQUIRER sister publication.

Marcos, who

Represents

Ilocos Norte’s second district in Congress, is running for senator as a guest candidate on the Nacionalista Party ticket of standard-bearer Sen. Manny Villar.

The late President Marcos declared the Palawan island a protected area, dubbing it the Calauit Game Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary.

Non-native animals—giraffes, gazelles, impalas and others—gifts to his father from Africa, according to Bongbong, were brought to the island.

The Tagbanuas, the original settlers who were forced to leave Calauit, reclaimed the island on Thursday when the government awarded them an ancestral domain title over the land and the surrounding sea.

Marcos Jr., however, doubted awarding them the title would do the Tagbanuas any good.

"I don't know if they are going to do better now if they come back to Calauit. They had a nice relocation. We built schools, hospitals, everything (they needed)," he said.

The Tagbanuas had been away from their ancestral land for almost 30 years.

Marcos, whose pastimes include shooting and hunting, admitted that he and his friends went hunting on Calauit in the 1980s.

"We used to hunt wild boar because they were pests. They usually ate the offspring of animals we placed there," he said.

News
Returning Calauit to tribe a waste, says Bongbong
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The view from the Top of Down Under

He said that every time he and his friends visited Calauit they released turtles, deer and fish on and around the island.

"We also used to count how many gazelles and giraffes there were," Marcos said.

He said he and his friends ate the boars they killed and shared them with the local residents.

"What's wrong with hunting? We only hunted wild boar," he said.

His father, he said, declared Calauit a protected area because it was a good place to keep endangered animals.

"He was a hunter and a nature lover. We wanted to have a place to hunt. I know people will say hunting is bad. But sometimes when we went hunting we just watched the animals for hours," he said.

Asked if he would help the Palawan government make Calauit a protected area again, Marcos Jr. said: "What for? They will think I have a personal interest because it was my private hunting ground."

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